

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

MASTERS CATEGORY



Dr. Elizabeth T. Ables
Biology

Thomas Harriot College
of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Elizabeth T. Ables is an assistant professor in the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology at East Carolina University. She obtained her BS degree in biology from St. Andrew's Presbyterian College, her MS in biology from UNC Wilmington, and completed her PhD in molecular physiology and developmental biology at Vanderbilt University. She has been a member of the ECU faculty since 2013, with a focus in steroid hormones and the control of oogenesis in fruit flies.

In her ascendant career, Dr. Ables has published 14 refereed journal articles, given numerous presentations, is a principal investigator on three competitive research grants, including a recent NIH R15 award. She has won eight awards, including a prestigious NIH pre-doctoral fellowship and an NIH post-doctoral fellowship while at Vanderbilt University. At ECU, Dr. Ables has mentored numerous undergraduate students, four master's students, and currently advises two PhD students.

Dr. Ables takes her role as a mentor very seriously. "My own personal and career success was shaped by three very influential mentors who challenged me to work hard, push beyond my perceived limits, and point out the barriers (sometimes unknown to me) that I would need to overcome," she says. "I try to connect with my students on a personal level. I tell them about my personal goals, my own educational journey, and the mistakes I have made along the way."

Letters of recommendation from colleagues and students note that Dr. Ables generously provides advice and mentoring to many students besides her own, whether through her service on thesis or dissertation advisory committees or in a lab next door. Dr. Ables "dedicates herself to assisting students achieve their personal and professional goals by working tirelessly to help them develop the skills and talents they need to succeed."

East Carolina University®

Distinguished Graduate Faculty Mentor Award

DOCTORAL CATEGORY



Dr. Ann M. Schreier
Nursing Science
College of Nursing

Dr. Ann M. Schreier is an associate professor in the College of Nursing, East Carolina University. She obtained her BSN degree from Boston University, her MSN degree from UC San Francisco, and completed her PhD in the sociology of education at Stanford University. She has been a member of the ECU faculty since 1999. Dr. Schreier has published numerous book chapters, refereed journal articles, podium presentations, and in 2014 published a book on pain management. She has served as principal investigator or as co-PI on numerous grants. Most significantly, she has served as the major research advisor to six PhD students and has directed two DNP student research projects and two master's theses.

Dr. Schreier teaches students to develop their research designs, navigate approvals for research involving human subjects and helps them complete their dissertation study. She serves as a sounding board for ideas and an advocate when obstacles are met. The key to her mentoring style is helping students understand that their dissertation study is their first step in building a research trajectory for their careers.

Letters of recommendation from colleagues and students note that Dr. Schreier helps students pursue ambitious research projects despite teaching, and conducting her own research on pain and symptom management in cancer patients. One student writes that Dr. Schreier “lives at the intersection where professional interests and passions meet, and makes being a dissertation chairperson seem like more of an ‘art’ than a vocation.”

One of her faculty nominators writes, “As an established, well-respected researcher, she provides insight and support that enriches the learning of her students. Her desire for the student to learn and grow, reaching their highest potential, is foundational to her role as a mentor.”

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